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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA as represented by THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL-TURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA [CA/CA]; 6000 C & E Trail, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1W1 (CA). SUTTIE, James, M. [NZ/NZ]; Scroggs Hill Road, Dunedin (NZ).

(72) Inventors; and

Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SCHAEFER, Allan, L. [CA/CA]; P.O. Box 5451, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1X2 (CA). LAWRENCE, Richard, A. [CA/CA]; 5124 60th Street Close, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1M3 (CA). DESROCHES, Garry, B. [CA/CA], 13416 - 56 Street, Edmonton, Albertas T5A 0P6 (CA). LEPAGE, Pierre [CA/CA]; P.O. Box 5441, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1X1

- (74) Agent: MCKAY-CAREY, Mary, Jane; McKay-Carey & Company, 2590 Commerce Place, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8 (CA).
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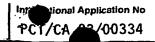
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE EVALUATION OF VELVET ANTLER

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and apparatus using infrared thermography for predicting an unknown value of an internal composition characteristic of velvet antler in vivo, in vitro, and/or during cooling or warming. The method involves generating a predictive model using a sample population of antlers to determine a relationship between a known input variable and a known value for the composition characteristic; and using the predictive model to predict the unknown value of the same composition characteristic in an antler not selected from the sample population. Using this value, a map can be made to identify sites and levels of the composition characteristic within the antler. The invention provides a method for predicting an internal composition characteristic of a velvet antler by obtaining an infrared thermographic image of the antler and visually ranking the image by comparison to a corresponding-image of an antler with the desired composition characteristic. A method to predict maturity by comparing temperature differences between the antler's tip and base is provided.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01J5/48

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 - 601N - 601J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBASE, MEDLINE, SCISEARCH

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Intentional Application No PCT/CA-03/00334

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